Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

s.19(1)

Elliott, Danika (AADNC/AANDC)

From: Roumeliotis, Eugenia (AADNC/AANDC)
Sent: August 6, 2021 8:36 AM
To: Gideon, Valerie (AADNC/AANDC)
Cc: Dallaire, Lisa (SAC/ISC)
Subject: RE: For Approval - Media Inquiries: [redacted] IRSSA & Mcleans Supports

Merci ☺

From: Gideon, Valerie (AADNC/AANDC)
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 8:33 AM
To: Roumeliotis, Eugenia (AADNC/AANDC)
Cc: Dallaire, Lisa (SAC/ISC)
Subject: RE: For Approval - Media Inquiries: [redacted] IRSSA & Mcleans Supports

I would add reference to Budget 2021 mental health investments which will enable the IRS mental health and cultural supports to continue, as well as supports to day school survivors.

From: Roumeliotis, Eugenia (AADNC/AANDC) <eugenia.roumeliotis@canada.ca>
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 8:24 AM
To: Gideon, Valerie (AADNC/AANDC) <valerie.gideon@canada.ca>
Cc: Dallaire, Lisa (SAC/ISC) <lisa.dallaire@canada.ca>
Subject: For Approval - Media Inquiries: [redacted] IRSSA & Mcleans Supports

Good morning Val,

Media inquiry for your review and approval. Seems like most of the info is preapproved and repackaged - The information in purple is already MO approved, and the information in green is information provided by FNIHB.

Please note the reporter originally requested an interview to discuss mental health supports available to Day School and Residential School survivors. Unfortunately given the sensitivities around the settlements – and the fact that we provided funding directly to the McLean Day Schools Settlement Corporation to manage projects related to $200M under McLean we are declining the interview. In lieu of a departmental interview, we are recommending they contact the corporation directly for additional information on these projects.

We have also separated the two settlements to address misinformation with the reporter and provide more details about how supports were created, who provides mental health services, stats on the crisis lines and how individuals can access services.

Please note the information in purple is already MO-approved, but we are including as a package to the reporter. Information in green has been provided by FNHIB. Most information below is taken directly from our websites.

The response as whole has been approved by

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

- FNIHB ADMO
- Senior Director Strat Comms ISC (Julie Cousineau)
- Senior Director Strat Comms CIRNA (James Sinclair)
- Director General Communications (Aruna Sadana)
- Deputy Minister, CIRNAC

****

Media:
Received : 7/29/2021
Deadline: 8/6/2021
Lead: RPS, FNIHB

Interview Requested: Yes

Questions:

Q1. Je ne remets pas en question, j'aimerais avoir le détails de ces 200 000$ promis. Vers quels programmes sont-ils allés, quand, à quelle hauteur? Exemple: programme d'aide monté par la Nation Cree - 10 000$ - donné en 2018. Je dis n'importe quoi, mais c'est ce genre de détails dont j'ai besoin.

I would like to have the details of this promised $ 200,000. What programs have they gone to, when, to what height? Example: Aid program set up by the Cree Nation - $ 10,000 - given in 2018. I say anything, but these are the kinds of details I need.

Q2. Aussi, j'avais demandé une entrevue avec une personne qui s'occupe de ce programme là: https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/fra/1581971225188/1581971250953
Ça devient vraiment urgent. Ce qu'il y a sur le site ne me donne pas assez d'infos sur la manière dont le pgm a été créé, comment il fonctionne concrètement, etc. Ça me prend un interlocuteur et le sujet requiert bien plus que quelques quote du service média.

Also, I had requested an interview with a person who is in charge of this program there: https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1581971225188/1581971250953
It's getting really urgent. What is on the site does not give me enough information on how the pgm was created, how it actually works, etc. It takes me an interlocutor and the subject requires much more than a few quotes from the media service.

Q3. J'aimerais savoir combien le gouvernement fédéral a payé Deloitte pour que cette entreprise agisse à titre d'administrateur dans le dossier des compensations financières à verser aux anciens élèves des externats indiens au Canada, à la suite de l'action collective menée par M. McLean.

I would like to know how much the federal government paid Deloitte for this company to act as administrator in the file of financial compensation to be paid to former students of Indian day schools in Canada, following the collective action carried out by Mr. McLean.

Response:

- For clarification, there are two separate and distinct settlements; the Federal Indian Day Schools (McLean Settlement Agreement) and the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Please see below for information related to their respective settlement.

Federal Indian Day Schools ~~(~~Settlement Agreement~~)~~

- The Federal Day School Settlement Agreement includes compensation for all persons who attended a federally-operated Indian Day School that was established, funded, controlled and managed by the

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Government of Canada from January 1, 1920, until its date of closure or transfer from Canada's control and suffered harm as a consequence of their attendance.

- In addition to individual compensation, the settlement agreement provided $200 million for healing, wellness, education, language, culture and commemoration activities for all those affected by federally-operated day schools. The funds will be administered by the McLean Day Schools Settlement Corporation. The Corporation is independent of the Government.

- For more information on the Corporation, please visit: http://mcleandayschoolssettlementcorporation.ca/

- For more information on these projects, please contact the Corporation: media@mediastyle.ca

- As per the terms of the Federal Court approval, Canada must pay Deloitte all reasonable costs associated with the administration of the agreement. The administration of the Federal Indian Day Schools Settlement Agreement is still ongoing, therefore the Department does not have a final number at this time.

- For more information, please visit: Recours collectif des externats indiens fédéraux (indiandayschools.com)

Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA)

- The implementation of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) began on September 19, 2007. The IRSSA represents the consensus reached between legal counsel for former students, legal counsel for the Churches, the Assembly of First Nations, other Indigenous organizations and the Government of Canada. The implementation of this historic agreement brings a fair and lasting resolution to the legacy of Indian Residential Schools.

- The IRSSA included five different elements to address the legacy of Indian Residential Schools:

    - a Common Experience Payment for all eligible former students of Indian Residential Schools
    - an Independent Assessment Process for claims of sexual or serious physical abuse
    - measures to support healing such as the Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program and an endowment to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation
    - commemorative activities
    - the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission

- Bringing closure to the legacy of Indian Residential Schools lies at the heart of reconciliation and a renewal of the relationships between Indigenous peoples who attended these schools, their families and communities, and all Canadians.

Mental Health Supports

- In November 2003, the Government of Canada launched the National Resolution Framework which included a litigation strategy, a Commemoration Program, an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process, and a health support service that former Indian Residential School students and their families could use in safely resolving their claims. The National Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line is an outcome of the National Resolution Framework.

- The Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program (IRS RHSP) was initially established as part of the 2006 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, and provides access to mental health counselling and health and cultural support services to former students of Indian

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Residential Schools and their families. Services are available to eligible individuals regardless of Indigenous status or place of residence.

- Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program Services provided include:
  - Health Support: Resolution Health Support Workers (RHSW) provide emotional support to safely address issues related to IRS experiences and impacts. A Resolution Health Support Worker will listen, talk, and provide support to former students and their family members. This support is provided by community-based Indigenous organizations which employ Indigenous health support workers
  - Cultural Support: Cultural Support Providers and Traditional Healers or Elders hired through community-based Indigenous organizations. Specific services are determined by the needs of the individual and include dialogue, ceremonies, prayers and/or traditional healing to assist former students and their families to safely address issues related to Indian Residential Schools
  - Professional counseling: Psychologists and social workers that are registered with Health Canada, for individual or family counseling assistance with transportation may be offered when professional counseling and cultural support services are not locally available.
  - People may connect with these supports by calling the appropriate regional ISC office: https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1584735005944/1585147200057.

- Since the implementation of the IRSSA, approximately $46 million dollars has been provided to fund a 24-7 National Crisis Line to support survivors and their families. This toll free support service (1-866-925-4419) continues to be available to all residential school survivors and their families and is staffed by trained crisis counselors, many of whom are Indigenous.

- The number of calls to the IRS Crisis Line between May 27, 2021 and May 31, 2021 jumped 265%. Since May 27, 2021, the highest number of calls received in a single day by the Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line was 763 calls on June 24, 2021.

- In addition, the Hope for Wellness Help Line provides immediate, culturally competent, crisis intervention and support for all Indigenous Peoples, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by phone at 1-855-242-3310 and online chat (hopeforwellness.ca). Experienced and culturally competent Help Line counsellors can help if you:
  - want to talk
  - are distressed
  - have strong emotional reactions
  - are triggered by painful memories

- Services are available in English and French, and upon request, in the following languages for both help lines:
  - Cree
  - Ojibway
  - Inuktitut

- Mental health counselling services are also available to eligible First Nations and Inuit through the ISC Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

- A contract is in place to fund the National Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line, the Hope for Wellness Helpline, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) support line. The newest contract which came into effect on February 1st, 2021 is valued at $11 million over two years ($5.5 million per year).

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Richard, Jonathan (AADNC/AANDC)

From: MacLean3, Megan (AADNC/AANDC)
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 9:54 AM
To: Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC); Stevenson2, Sandra (AADNC/AANDC)
Cc: DG Communications (SAC/ISC)
Subject: DGO/DMO FYI: [redacted] - Payments by Catholic entities

DGO/DMO FYI

Program approved response below using standard messaging. Sending to MinO for approval.

Megan MacLean (elle/she/her)
Gestionnaire, relations avec les médias / Manager, Media Relations
SAC et RCAAN / ISC and CIRNA
megan.maclean3@canada.ca / Tel.: 873-355-3966

APPROVALS

Mary Allin, Sr. Case Manager SACCB – June 30, 2021
Derek Tubman, A/Director, Litigation-SACCB – June 30, 2021
Karen Turcotte, DG RPS-SACCB – June 30, 2021
Martin Reiher, ADM RPS – June 30, 2021
Wendy Weise, Communications Manager RPS – June 30, 2021
James Sinclair, Sr Communications Director– June 30, 2021

RPS/SACCB - MR - IRSSA - [redacted] (https://gcdocs.intra.pri/aanc-inac/llisapi.dll/link/96014433)

CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA
RESPONSE TO MEDIA

Media: [redacted]
Received : 6/30/2021
Deadline: 7/2/2021
Lead: RPS
Interview Requested: No

QUESTIONS

1) How was the $29M initial payment required by the Catholic entities broken down and collected by Canada? Did each of the 48 entities who signed the agreement pay an equal share, was it prorated based on their involvement in residential schools, or another method?

2) Regarding the $25M in-kind services promised by the Catholic entities. Has this been audited by Canada, or have the entities provided the government with a list of these in-kind services since signing the IRSSA?

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

3) Regarding the $25M additional money that the Catholic entities promised their "best effort" to raise. Similar to Question 1, were each of the 48 entities responsible for raising an equal share of this amount, or not? If so, who managed this effort and was responsible for determining which entities should have to raise how much?

PROPOSED RESPONSE

Canada did not have a supervisory role over the churches, including the Catholic Entities. Such functions are vested in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement Supervising Court.

Under Schedule O-3 of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the Catholic Entities had three financial obligations:
(1) make a cash contribution of $29 million at the time of implementation of the Agreement;
(2) provide in kind services worth $25 million; and
(3) use “best efforts” to raise $25 million to support healing and reconciliation programs.

The first two financial obligations of the Catholic Entities have been met. With respect to the third obligation, the Catholic Entities raised approximately $3.7 million of the $25 million fundraising commitment. In a decision dated July 16, 2015, the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement Supervising Court confirmed that the Catholic Entities had no further financial obligations under the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

DESIGNATED SPOKESPERSONS

CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA	
MEDIA RELATIONS Media Inquiries Line (819) 953-1160	**PRIMARY SPOKESPERSON** Karen Turcotte, DG Settlement Agreement and Childhood Claims Branch (613) 947-7132

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Richard, Jonathan (AADNC/AANDC)

From: Michelson, Leslie (AADNC/AANDC)
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Robert2, Philippe (AADNC/AANDC); Stevenson2, Sandra (AADNC/AANDC); DG Communications (SAC/ISC); Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC)
Cc: Midy, Carine (AADNC/AANDC); Sinclair, James (AADNC/AANDC); Ramsay, Tamsin (AADNC/AANDC); Weise, Wendy (AADNC/AANDC); Kyllo, Benjamin (AADNC/AANDC); Holowachuk, Brock (AADNC/AANDC); Lezina, Beles (AADNC/AANDC); Kalloo, Dylan (AADNC/AANDC)
Subject: FYI DGO/DMO - Delivering Media Request: Follow-up - [redacted] Catholic Church IRSSA settlement - Due: COB 7/9/2021

FYI DGO/DMO –

Media Relations will be delivering the responses to the follow-up questions below. Note Q1/2 are pre-approved and previously delivered (we're reconfirming with the reporter). Messaging for Q3 is approved by RPS and James Sinclair for Aruna.

Thanks,

Leslie Michelson
Relations avec les médias | Media Relations
Services aux Autochtones Canada | Indigenous Services Canada
Relations Couronne-Autochtones et Affairs du Nord Canada | Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Téléphone | Telephone: 819-639-7304
Courriel | Email: leslie.michelson@canada.ca

****

Media: [redacted]
Received : 7.8.2021
Deadline: 7.9.2021 – 1700hr ET
Lead: RPS

Follow-up Questions/Responses:

The Globe & Mail followed up regarding the Catholic Church obligations under the IRSSA settlement. Media Relations asked MO to advise direction on Q2 for a political response from their office or the Department to re-state the decision by the court. The reporter stated their media outlet previously reporter that approx. $1.6 million from the $3.7 million raised under obligation 3 was payed to admin fees. Q3 remains unanswered.

1) **I do understand that $3.7-million was raised from the Catholic Church, but could you tell me how much was actually donated? As I understand it, about $2.1-million was donated in the end, as administrative fees were deducted.**

As previously mentioned, all of the money raised by the church entities, including the $3.7 million raised by the Catholic church, was donated to communities in its entirety.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

2) **Also does the ministry want to see that outstanding $25-million obligation, which was never fully met, now fulfilled by the Catholic Church, or does it have a position on this?**

In a decision dated July 16, 2015, the IRSSA Supervising Courts confirmed that the Catholic Entities had no further financial obligations under the IRSSA.

3) **related to the answer below that describes the three tranches of payments the church was supposed to make.**
The second one – provide in-kind services worth $25-million – was there any external oversight of that, or any independent body that monitored that this was actually provided?

Canada did not have a supervisory role over the churches, including the Catholic Entities. Such functions are vested in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement Supervising Courts.

s.19(1)

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Richard, Jonathan (AADNC/AANDC)

From: Fournier, Kyle (AADNC/AANDC)
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 4:47 PM
To: Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC); DG Communications (SAC/ISC); Stevenson2, Sandra (AADNC/AANDC); Robert2, Philippe (AADNC/AANDC)
Cc: Papadakou, Antonia (AADNC/AANDC); Michelson, Leslie (AADNC/AANDC); Midy, Carine (AADNC/AANDC); Ramsay, Tamsin (AADNC/AANDC)
Subject: FYI MO Delivering: Urgent Media Request: [redacted] - Comment on Catholic Church

Hello,

As a follow-up for your awareness, Mino will be delivering the following response.

"As I have said previously, I don't think there's any excuse for this. I have heard from Catholics coast to coast to coast that they want their church to do better. The Catholic Church, like other parties to the IRSSA, has a moral responsibility support healing and closure in response to the role they played in this tragedy. I am encouraged by the decision of the Saskatchewan, Toronto and Calgary Catholic Bishops to restart efforts to fundraise the outstanding amount that they have committed to raise. Parties to the IRSSA have an obligation to entirely fulfill what they committed to in the 2005 agreement. Canadians are expecting us all to meaningfully engage in reconciliation, recognize the ongoing intergenerational trauma and support healing for Survivors, families and communities."

Thank you,

Kyle Fournier (il/ he/ his)
Relations avec les médias | Media Relations
Services aux Autochtones Canada | Indigenous Services Canada
Relations Couronne-Autochtones et Affairs du Nord Canada | Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Téléphone | Telephone: 343-552-1114
Courriel | Email: kyle.fournier@canada.ca

From: Fournier, Kyle (AADNC/AANDC)
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC) ; DG Communications (SAC/ISC) ; Stevenson2, Sandra (AADNC/AANDC) ; Robert2, Philippe (AADNC/AANDC)
Cc: Papadakou, Antonia (AADNC/AANDC) ; Michelson, Leslie (AADNC/AANDC) ; Midy, Carine (AADNC/AANDC) ; Ramsay, Tamsin (AADNC/AANDC)
Subject: FLAG: Urgent Media Request: [redacted] - Comment on Catholic Church

Good afternoon,

Flagging for your awareness, an urgent media request from [redacted] for reaction to this CBC article.
We're looking at pre-approved messaging from an inquiry recently closed.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Thank you,

****

Media: [redacted]
Received : 7/29/2021
Deadline: 1700hr ET
Lead: RPS

Interview Requested: No

Question: We are looking for reactions from the federal government on this story from CBC today. What's the federal government's reaction to the Roman Catholic Church spending money meant for residential school survivors on lawyers, administration, a private fundraising company and unapproved loans?

****

Kyle Fournier (il/ he/ his)
Relations avec les médias | Media Relations
Services aux Autochtones Canada | Indigenous Services Canada
Relations Couronne-Autochtones et Affairs du Nord Canada | Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Téléphone | Telephone: 343-552-1114
Courriel | Email: kyle.fournier@canada.ca

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Richard, Jonathan (AADNC/AANDC)

From: Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC)
Sent: Saturday, June 19, 2021 10:13 AM
To: Olscamp, William (AADNC/AANDC)
Cc: DG Communications (SAC/ISC); MacLean3, Megan (AADNC/AANDC); Kyllo, Benjamin (AADNC/AANDC)
Subject: Re: For Aruna's Approval - Media Inquiry: [redacted] on Catholic Church's fundraising commitment

Good to go. DM FYI

Sent from my IPhone

On Jun 19, 2021, at 9:59 AM, Olscamp, William (AADNC/AANDC) <william.olscamp@canada.ca> wrote:

Hi Aruna,

Also looking on your approval for this one.

RPS-approved response below.

Messaging comes from evergreen MLs.

We pushed pretty hard with JUS as we thought they'd have input but they did not. Do you think DMO approval is warranted here?

Media: [redacted]
Received : 6/18/2021
Deadline: ASAP
Lead: RPS

Interview Requested: No

Question:

I'm writing about the 2015 case involving the federal government and Catholic Church's $25 million fundraising commitment.

The lawyer for the government was Louis Alexandre Guay. Can I please speak with him or someone who can answer these and other questions?

I'm wondering why the government decided not to appeal, whether other parties to the settlement agreement were notified and/or given a chance to be involved, and whether it was surprising to hear the decision, given there was no explicit written agreement to relieve the church of its commitment.

Proposed Response

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Under Schedule O-3 of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA), the Catholic Entities had three financial obligations:
(1) make a cash contribution of $29 million at the time of implementation of the Agreement;
(2) provide in kind services worth $25 million; and
(3) use “best efforts” to raise $25 million to support healing and reconciliation programs.

The first two financial obligations of the Catholic Entities have been met. With respect to the third obligation, the Catholic Entities raised approximately $3.7 million of the $25 million fundraising commitment. In a decision dated July 16, 2015, the IRSSA Supervising Court confirmed that the Catholic Entities had no further financial obligations under the IRSSA.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Richard, Jonathan (AADNC/AANDC)

From: Michelson, Leslie (AADNC/AANDC)
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 9:43 AM
To: Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC)
Cc: Holowachuk, Brock (AADNC/AANDC); Fournier, Kyle (AADNC/AANDC)
Subject: RE: Reaching out re: Catholic Church and IRSSA

Hi Aruna,

Thanks for the heads-up, however CIRNA nor ISC would be able to provide this reporter with the information he's looking for.

The Department does not have records of evidence used in the Provincial Court case and would not have access to the Church's ledger, which is the main purpose of the inquiry. Additionally, we would not speak on behalf of how the church responded to the court's administration of the settlement.

We have been responding with the following messaging:

- In a decision dated July 16, 2015, the IRSSA Supervising Courts confirmed that the Catholic Entities had no further financial obligations under the IRSSA. As Canada did not have a supervisory role over the churches, including the Catholic Entities, the Government is not in a position to comment further.

If you would like, we can reach out to the reporter to deliver this response and reiterate the media relations process, but would have nothing further to add.

Thanks,

Leslie Michelson
Relations avec les médias | Media Relations
Services aux Autochtones Canada | Indigenous Services Canada
Relations Couronne-Autochtones et Affairs du Nord Canada | Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Téléphone | Telephone: 819-639-7304
Courriel | Email: leslie.michelson@canada.ca

From: Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC) <aruna.sadana@canada.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 9:28 AM
To: Media (SAC/ISC) <sac.media.isc@canada.ca>
Cc: Holowachuk, Brock (AADNC/AANDC) <brock.holowachuk@canada.ca>
Subject: FW: Reaching out re: Catholic Church and IRSSA

Leslie and team… over to you. I am sending to ISC media relations as it came in to Luc Dumont in the Quebec Regional office. However, will leave it to you to determine if response should come from CIRNA.

Merci. Thank you. Meegwetch. Nakurmiik. Maarsi.

Aruna

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Aruna Sadana, MBA (elle/she/her)

Director General, Communications
Indigenous Services Canada AND
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
aruna.sadana@canada.ca/ Tel: 819-994-1813/cell: 613-297-3311

Directrice générale, Communications
Services aux Autochtones Canada ET
Relations Couronne-Autochtones et Affaires du Nord Canada
aruna.sadana@canada.ca / Tél: 819-994-1813/cel:613-297-3311

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

From: Wilkinson, Joanne (AADNC/AANDC) <joanne.wilkinson@canada.ca>
Sent: August 5, 2021 9:23 AM
To: Dumont, Luc (AADNC/AANDC) <luc.dumont@canada.ca>
Cc: Russell, David (AADNC/AANDC) <david.russell@canada.ca>; Russell, Susan (SAC/ISC) <susan.russell@canada.ca>; Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC) <aruna.sadana@canada.ca>
Subject: Re: Reaching out re: Catholic Church and IRSSA

Definitely need to redirect to Comms please - and Susan, can you please mention to all direct reports and RDGOs to ensure they all know that this is the process in case there are more calls of this nature to others? Merci.

> On Aug 5, 2021, at 9:04 AM, Dumont, Luc (AADNC/AANDC) <luc.dumont@canada.ca> wrote:
>
> Heads-up. Will forward him to Comms-unless different advice. We can discuss at our bilat
>
> **De :** [redacted]
> **Envoyé :** mercredi 4 août 2021 15:39
> **À :** Dumont, Luc (AADNC/AANDC) <luc.dumont@canada.ca>
> **Objet :** Reaching out re: Catholic Church and IRSSA
>
> Hi Mr. Dumont,
>
> I hope this finds you well, and apologies for the intrusion. I'm a reporter with [redacted] and I've recently been looking at the Catholic Church's financial obligations surrounding residential schools.
>
> An opinion I've heard from many corners is that the Church should be paying more – even beyond the agreements you helped administer. I have examined court records in the 2014-2015 Saskatchewan court case, but one particular document I was hoping to locate – the ledger of in-kind services – does not seem to be in the court file. I'm hoping to learn a bit more about the deal and how the church responded to the government's administration of the settlement.
>
> I'd love the opportunity to chat on the phone, if you're willing – I'm happy to do it off-record, if that's easier. I realize this email comes out of left field, but I hope you're amenable to a conversation; I think your deep knowledge of this topic would be an enormous help here.
>
> I'm at [redacted] if you'd like to reach out – that is also my Signal number, if you prefer to message me there.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Thanks so much,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Richard, Jonathan (AADNC/AANDC)

From: Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC)
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 9:26 AM
To: Wilkinson, Joanne (AADNC/AANDC); Dumont, Luc (AADNC/AANDC)
Cc: Russell, David (AADNC/AANDC); Russell, Susan (SAC/ISC)
Subject: RE: Reaching out re: Catholic Church and IRSSA

Thanks Joanne,

We will take it from here and contact the reporter. As you mention, all reporters should be redirected to media relations. We have had several questions of this nature in the last few weeks.

Merci. Thank you. Meegwetch. Nakurmiik. Maarsi.

Aruna

Aruna Sadana, MBA (elle/she/her)

Director General, Communications
Indigenous Services Canada AND
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
aruna.sadana@canada.ca/ Tel: 819-994-1813/cell: 613-297-3311

Directrice générale, Communications
Services aux Autochtones Canada ET
Relations Couronne-Autochtones et Affaires du Nord Canada
aruna.sadana@canada.ca / Tél: 819-994-1813/cel:613-297-3311

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

From: Wilkinson, Joanne (AADNC/AANDC) <joanne.wilkinson@canada.ca>
Sent: August 5, 2021 9:23 AM
To: Dumont, Luc (AADNC/AANDC) <luc.dumont@canada.ca>
Cc: Russell, David (AADNC/AANDC) <david.russell@canada.ca>; Russell, Susan (SAC/ISC) <susan.russell@canada.ca>; Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC) <aruna.sadana@canada.ca>
Subject: Re: Reaching out re: Catholic Church and IRSSA

Definitely need to redirect to Comms please - and Susan, can you please mention to all direct reports and RDGOs to ensure they all know that this is the process in case there are more calls of this nature to others? Merci.

> On Aug 5, 2021, at 9:04 AM, Dumont, Luc (AADNC/AANDC) <luc.dumont@canada.ca> wrote:
>
> Heads-up. Will forward him to Comms-unless different advice. We can discuss at our bilat
>
> **De :** [redacted]
> **Envoyé :** mercredi 4 août 2021 15:39

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

s.19(1)

À : Dumont, Luc (AADNC/AANDC) <luc.dumont@canada.ca>
Objet : Reaching out re: Catholic Church and IRSSA

Hi Mr. Dumont,

I hope this finds you well, and apologies for the intrusion. I'm a reporter with [redacted] and I've recently been looking at the Catholic Church's financial obligations surrounding residential schools.

An opinion I've heard from many corners is that the Church should be paying more – even beyond the agreements you helped administer. I have examined court records in the 2014-2015 Saskatchewan court case, but one particular document I was hoping to locate – the ledger of in-kind services – does not seem to be in the court file. I'm hoping to learn a bit more about the deal and how the church responded to the government's administration of the settlement.

I'd love the opportunity to chat on the phone, if you're willing – I'm happy to do it off-record, if that's easier. I realize this email comes out of left field, but I hope you're amenable to a conversation; I think your deep knowledge of this topic would be an enormous help here.

I'm at [redacted] if you'd like to reach out – that is also my Signal number, if you prefer to message me there.

Thanks so much,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Elliott, Danika (AADNC/AANDC)

From: Fox, Christiane (AADNC/AANDC)
Sent: July 6, 2021 9:27 AM
To: Mitchell, Gail (AADNC/AANDC); Wilkinson, Joanne (AADNC/AANDC); Boucher, Patrick (SAC/ISC)
Cc: Gideon, Valerie (AADNC/AANDC); Roumeliotis, Eugenia (AADNC/AANDC); Nadjiwon, Mia (AADNC/AANDC)
Subject: FW: In Saskatchewan's news ...

I sent a quick text to Neil Sasakamoose given the work they are doing on residential schools……

DAILY NEWS

Keeping you in the loop! July 6, 2021

Today's Headlines

More remains possibly found at another Saskatchewan residential school site
Trudeau, Moe visiting Cowessess First Nation to sign historic child welfare law
Assembly of First Nations to meet virtually, vote for new national chief
Saskatchewan marks 6th consecutive day without adding COVID-19-related fatality
Sask. bishops say provincial fundraiser is in the works to help pay money owed for role in residential school system
Sask. Catholic bishops resurrect fundraising campaign for residential school survivors
Residential school reparation will be costly
Northern community dealing with COVID-19 outbreak, Delta variant

More remains possibly found at another Saskatchewan residential school site

Global news

The Battlefords Agency Tribal Council Inc. (BATC) is searching another former residential school site, and they may have found more remains.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

"We've identified five locations that we've mapped out now," Neil Sasakamoose said. He's the executive director of the BATC.

He said SNC-Lavalin crews are using ground-penetrating radar to search for the remains of Indigenous people at the site of the Thunderchild residential school near Delmas, Sask., north of the Battlefords. It was also known as the St. Henri residential school.

He said it's a challenging site, because the area is completely unmarked and because remains may have been moved in the past. He said elders are directing the searches.

"We have some people that actually dug some of the graves for those people, that are still alive. And they've told us, 'Right here is where I remember being,'" he said.

Sasakamoose didn't specify what the locations detected at the site were, or how large they may be.

The announcement comes a few days after five Saskatchewan bishops put out a statement, saying they hope to announce a fundraising campaign in the future for school survivors.

Archbishop Donald Bolen, of the Archdiocese of Regina, told Global News that amount is separate from the $25 million the Catholic Church previously promised to survivors.

"This is an effort to try to rebuild relationships, to work together, to take some responsibility for the past and to open a path to working together in the future," he said.

"The entire residential school legacy is very much in our view as we initiate this campaign," he said, though he added that no amount of money can ease the pain that many survivors experience.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Bolen has apologized for the Church's role in the past, and said he wants to offer his apologies "whenever I hear about suffering that peopled experienced at the hands of a project of assimilation."

He explained the bishops want to stand in solidarity during the new searches and told Global News the campaign is so new that he couldn't say much more about it.

He said the archdiocese staff, and the other bishops and their staff, need to have internal and group conversations to finalize details.

And he said the internal conversations will determine how this fundraising campaign will function alongside the other initiative alreBolen said the bishops will release more details soon.

Sasakamoose said he was struggling with the concept of a church right now, and that he was suffering mixed emotions over what the ground radar has revealed.

"My dad went there," he said, referring to the Delmas school.

After a long pause, he added, "Am I looking for an apology from the church? No."

Sasakamoose said everyone is preparing — as best they can — for what the discoveries could yield.

He stated the BATC is hoping to announce the results on July 17 or 18.ady underway, to renovate a Regina cathedral

Then, he said, they will start searching the site of another nearby residential school, the Battleford Industrial School, which is south of the Battlefords.

He told reporters he hopes to be able to announce any findings from that search by the end of August.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations First Vice-Chief Morley Watson says reconciliation needs to involve all Indigenous people, and all those responsible.

"I think the Queen has to be involved, I think the Pope has to be involved, and our First Nations leaders across Canada have to be involved," he said.

The Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program has a hotline to help residential school survivors and their relatives suffering with trauma invoked by the recall of past abuse. The number is 1-866-925-4419.

Trudeau, Moe visiting Cowessess First Nation to sign historic child welfare law

Global news

A historic signing is taking place on the Cowessess First Nation. Early this year, the Saskatchewan First Nation made history when it officially reasserted its right to care for and protect its children.

It will come to full fruition on Tuesday when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe travel to the First Nation, east of Regina, to finalize the coordination and fiscal agreement.

"Since 1951, the jurisdiction of children in care was removed from Cowessess First Nation and the final decision-making responsibility and judicial decision-making power was driven by non-Cowessess First Nations laws," Cowessess Chief Cadmus Delorme said in a statement.

Child welfare legislation was passed by Cowessess in March 2020 under Canada's landmark Bill C-92, which empowers Indigenous communities to reclaim jurisdiction.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

On April 1, the Miyo Pimatisowin Act came into effect, giving Cowessess full coast-to-coast jurisdiction over its children in care anywhere in the country.

Delorme previously estimated there were roughly 165 Cowessess children in government care.

“This responsibility is a part of our long-term goal of controlling our own plan to self-government based on our Inherent Rights and Treaty relationship,” Delorme said.

“This coordination agreement is a transition plan to assure the transfer of jurisdiction is professional and at the pace of Cowessess First Nation.

“The fiscal agreement confirms the investment the government of Canada and the government of Saskatchewan takes in supporting the Cowessess First Nation.”

Chief Red Bear Children’s Lodge is CFN’s child safety body, providing preventative and protective services to keep families together.

Cowessess is hoping for roughly $20 million annually from both levels of government to operate the lodge.

The lodge employs fewer than 20 people, but Delorme told Global News earlier this year that it will expand to 60 in the coming years. Chief Red Bear Children’s Lodge oversees Sacred Wolf Lodge, which houses families struggling with trauma. Parents and children live there temporarily, healing with the help of lodge staff and kokums.

The lodge, which was operational prior to Thursday, already has a waitlist, Delorme said in April.

Last month, Cowessess announced the finding of an estimated 751 unmarked graves were found at the site of the former Marieval residential school.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

The announcement came after a First Nation in Kamloops, B.C., reported in May that unmarked burial sites of 215 children were found on the site of the former Kamloops Residential School

Assembly of First Nations to meet virtually, vote for new national chief

CP

First Nations chiefs and delegates will gather virtually this week to discuss their communities' priorities and plans for moving forward — even as they also reflect on a past brought into harsher light with the recent discoveries of unmarked graves at former residential schools.

The Assembly of First Nations' 42nd annual general assembly begins Tuesday and will feature the election of a new national chief to represent the advocacy organization's 634 First Nations, encompassing more than 900,000 people.

Outgoing National Chief Perry Bellegarde signalled his intention not to seek re-election last December, saying he has spent his six years in the role helping to bring Indigenous issues to the forefront of Canadian public life.

He has been called upon to respond to the news that First Nations have used ground-penetrating radar to locate what are believed to be the remains of hundreds Indigenous children buried in unmarked graves on the sites of at least three former residential schools.

But Bellegarde's sentiments in his last days in office have remained hopeful.

"I encourage you to take the time today to reflect on the atrocities committed against First Nations. It is also a chance to listen and learn about how we can make Canada's future better for everyone," Bellegarde said in a series of tweets published on Canada Day _ a day marked by lowered flags and silent vigils in lieu of celebrations in many places across the country.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

"We all know that more work needs to be done. I am pleased to see that Canadians, especially youth, have entered a national dialogue around reconciliation that many couldn't face before. This is progress."

Bellegarde has pointed to his success in pushing for several important initiatives. That includes legislation to revitalize and protect Indigenous languages, increasing Indigenous voter turnout in general elections and seeing legislation harmonizing Canada's laws with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples receive royal assent last month.

Now, he says it's up to Canadians to take the next steps and educate themselves about what is needed to continue building toward reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

He wants everyone to read the reports of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the National Inquiry on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls and the testimonies of residential school survivors, calling these "easy actions everyone can do."

"We need all Canadians to commit themselves to the journey of reconciliation. The best story of Canada has yet to be written."

Seven candidates are vying to replace Bellegarde as the next national chief, including three women. The AFN has never been represented by a woman. The candidates include:

•Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and outgoing regional chief RoseAnne Archibald, from Ontario;

•Cathy Martin of the Listuguj Mi'gmag Nation in Quebec;

•Outgoing regional chief Kevin Hart from Manitoba;

•Muskowekwan First Nation Chief Reginald Bellerose, from Saskatchewan;

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

•former Tsuut'ina First Nation chief Lee Crowchild and Jodi Calahoo Stonehouse, executive director of the Yellowhead Indigenous Education Foundation, from Alberta.

Several ballots are expected before a winner is declared on Wednesday. A candidate must secure 60 per cent of votes cast to win. After each round of voting, the candidate with the fewest ballots will be eliminated until one finally receives 60 per cent support.

A number of First Nations organizations and individuals sent letters of concern to AFN leadership this requesting to put off the vote, given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

A resolution calling for a delayed election is on the agenda for discussion among the chiefs and their proxies Tuesday, noting that the AFN charter does not allow for online elections and that concerns have been raised about what happens if the election results are challenged.

Nonetheless, a vote is scheduled to take place virtually on July 7.

On Tuesday, Bellegarde will deliver remarks, and there will be a tribute to his time in leadership. Then, the virtual event will hold a moment of silence for the children who went missing or died while attending residential schools

Saskatchewan marks 6th consecutive day without adding COVID-19-related fatality
Global news

For the sixth day in a row, Saskatchewan hasn't reported any COVID-19-related deaths as active infections continue to fall in the province.

The province's active COVID-19 cases have decreased and now sit at 360. It is the lowest number reported since Oct. 18, 2020, when there were 342.

Health officials said Monday there were 20 new cases, bringing the overall infection total in Saskatchewan to 48,978. The seven-day

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

average of new daily infections stayed at 33, which is the lowest since Oct. 15, 2020, when it was 31.

According to the provincial government, four new variant of concern (VOC) cases have been identified in Saskatchewan, while the total is reported at 12,208.

The province's hospitals are currently providing care for 65 patients with COVID-19: 44 are receiving inpatient care and 11 are in ICUs.

The total number of people who have recovered from the virus has grown to 48,050 following 56 more recoveries, provincial health officials said.

According to the press release, 912 COVID-19 tests were performed on July 4. To date, 923,683 tests have been carried out in the province.

A total of 1,225,186 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Saskatchewan, provincial government officials said.

There have been 568 COVID-19-related deaths in Saskatchewan to date.

Sask. bishops say provincial fundraiser is in the works to help pay money owed for role in residential school system

The province's Catholic leadership says a fundraising plan is in the works following a renewed call by the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) for the church to honour a 2006 commitment to raise $25 million in compensation for its role in Canada's residential school system.

"These wrongs were committed by the Catholic Church and our survivors deserve a proper apology and compensation for what was done to them; not broken promises," FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron said last week,

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

In a joint letter issued to Saskatchewan's Catholic community over the weekend, the province's bishops said many in the community have expressed support for the idea of a rekindled fundraising effort.

We are deeply grateful for the signs and indications of commitment we have been hearing, and have begun consultations this past week towards a province-wide fundraising effort, which we would each undertake in ways discerned in our respective dioceses," the letter said.

"To maximize the effectiveness of such an effort, it is important to plan well and to coordinate the efforts of various potential participants, and most importantly, to consult with Indigenous dialogue partners, including survivors, elders, knowledge keepers and chiefs. Those conversations are already underway and we hope to be able to announce a plan soon," the leaders wrote.

According to a previous news release from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, in addition to $29 million in direct compensation and $25 million of "in-kind" services those who signed the IRSSA committed to final fundraising appeal that was titled the “Moving Forward Together” campaign.

“That’s a good gesture but no amount of money will ever replace what we as First Nations people lost and that’s our children,” said FSIN First Vice-Chief Morley Watson.

This campaign was to also involve not only the 50 entities, but all dioceses in Canada, with a goal to raise $25 million. After two diocesan-wide collections were held, the diocese of Saskatoon contributed about $34,000 to this national effort, which ultimately fell short of the $25 million national goal.

The joint letter was signed by all five of the province's bishops including Archbishop Donald J. Bolen in Regina, Bishop Mark Hagemoen in Saskatoon and Bishop Stephen Hero in Prince Albert.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Sask. Catholic bishops resurrect fundraising campaign for residential school survivors

Catholic bishops in Saskatchewan are restarting fundraising efforts for residential school survivors and their families.

The announcement follows calls for a church boycott until the $25 million fundraising goal made by Catholic church bodies in the landmark 2005 Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement is achieved. It also follows a CBC News investigation this week into the political and legal events that resulted in less than $4 million being raised.

"We have heard the strong request, from Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people in various quarters to initiate a new fundraising campaign to support survivors and engage more deeply in our own ongoing commitment and response to the Truth and Reconciliation process," states the joint letter from Saskatchewan's five bishops.

The letter states consultations have begun within the dioceses and they "look forward to responding with more details in the near future."

Officials from the Regina diocese, Saskatoon diocese or the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops couldn't be immediately reached for comment Sunday. It's unclear when the campaign will begin, what the target dollar amount will be or whether bishops in other provinces will follow.

A Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations official said they will be issuing a statement later Sunday.

FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron, Kinistin Saulteaux Nation Chief Felix Thomas, Okanagan Indian Band Chief Byron Louis and others had recently called for Catholics to boycott Sunday mass until the remaining $21 million was paid.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

They are also calling on the Catholic church to immediately release all records related to residential schools, and for Pope Francis to come to Canada to issue an apology, as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action.

New effort 'must be highly transparent'

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, director of the University of British Columbia's Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre reviewed the bishops' statement.

"This is interesting news coming from the Bishops in Saskatchewan. I commend them for their announcement," said Turpel-Lafond, a member of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, located approximately 100 kilometres north of Saskatoon.

She said she's eager to see details.

"In the past, such announcements were not followed through, even though they were ordered by the Court, and Canadians and First Nations were left completely in the dark. To be credible, this new effort must be highly transparent and monitored by someone outside the church," she said.

Turpel-Lafond and others have said that remaining $21 million is a "starting point" to repairing the church's relationship with survivors. They say concrete action by the Catholic church is especially urgent following the discovery of more than 1,000 unmarked graves at former residential school sites in Kamloops, B.C., the Cowessess First Nation in southern Saskatchewan and elsewhere.

They'd like to see fundraising campaigns for church buildings put on hold until the money for survivors is paid. They also favour diverting to the survivors' fund some of the tens of millions being raised for Regina's Holy Rosary Cathedral, Toronto's St. Michael's Basilica and other current building projects.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Survivors and others have said that if Canadian Catholic churches won't pay, the Vatican should. They pointed to the Vatican Bank's estimated $6 billion in assets, and the church's global land holdings.

That includes speculative real estate investments of more than $500 million in one London office building alone, according to charges against 10 officials announced this weekend by Vatican prosecutors.

Support is available for anyone affected by their experience at residential schools, and those who are triggered by these reports. A national Indian Residential School Crisis Line has been set up to provide support for residential school survivors and others affected.

Residential school reparation will be costly

Star Phoenix

The year 2015 was a monumental one in the long and sorry history of slavery.

Just six years ago, Britain finally paid off its debt stemming from its 1833 decision to spend 40 per cent of its national budget to compensate slave owners for the Slavery Abolition Act.

Yes, reparation money (then 20 million pounds, or 20 billion pounds today) for the next 182 years went to elite white families who benefited from slavery and not to the families of the roughly 3.1 million Africans captured for enslavement.

It illustrates just how ingrained these injustices are in our national histories, a reality we now face here at home as we finally begin to attempt to right the wrongs of Indian residential schools.

We won't fix this overnight, and current impulsive acts of destruction or aggression will only make things worse.

"I am not impressed by acts of destruction such as this," said Murray Sinclair, former head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) on the recent church burnings and other acts of vandalism that have been cheered by some. "The people who commit these acts

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

and those who condone them need to understand how much they set back any chance of moving the dialogue (forward), or changing the bad relationship we have ...

"Do you really think this is going to help? Of course you don't. That's not why you did it."

Sinclair is right that those responsible for or condoning such acts, whether driven by sincere anger or not, are unhelpful.

There is a better way. The problem is history tells us that better way toward reconciliation will be costly and painful.

As repulsive as it was to reward British slave-owning families, the policy achieved its intended results of abolishing slavery in Britain and its colonies three decades before U.S. president Abraham Lincoln signed the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation that could only be enforced through victory in civil war.

The recent rediscovery of grave sites at the Kamloops Residential School and the potential 751 graves on the Cowessess First Nation has forced us to confront our own historical injustices in this country.

And, unfortunately, we share a similar reality when it comes to modern struggles with reconciliation. We also can't resolve our history with a large-scale federal reparation payout (beyond the Common Experience Payment given to residential school survivors), something the TRC did not recommend.

Even if this were the best solution, politics would make it unattainable in Canada or the United States.

According to an Associated Press poll, in today's America, 85 per cent of whites oppose federal government reparation, as opposed to 75 per cent of Black Americans who support some form of it.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

However, rather than fight with their federal government, Black Americans are finding reparation solutions for descendants at universities, schools, local governments and churches.

Might resolution for residential schools also be found locally? Shouldn't the Catholic Church be required to fulfil its $25-million fundraising pledge (less than $4 million has been raised) in its Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement? To suggest that this is somehow unaffordable is to ignore provinces like Alberta and Saskatchewan have entire separate school systems in which a percentage of the school property tax or a direct levy could be collected for needed and ongoing compensation fund for First Nation descendants.

Is this an unreasonable request, given some parents send their kids to Catholic schools for reasons that often have more to do with extracurricular and sports opportunities than religious commitments?
Given the vast majority send their kids to separate schools for religious teachings, is there a more valuable lesson today than the need to right past wrongs of the church while helping those most in need? Shouldn't this be led by the church itself, with the provincial government helping by ensuring proper administration and some equitable contribution from non-Catholic residents? Shouldn't leaders today like Premier Scott Moe do more than simply say the right things? Shouldn't it get behind something more substantive and constructive? Correcting unconscionable historical wrongs is costly, difficult and sometimes still impossible even after centuries of trying.

Northern community dealing with COVID-19 outbreak, Delta variant

CJME

As many Saskatchewan communities watch their COVID-19 case numbers drop, the Hatchet Lake Dene Nation — including Wollaston Lake — is dealing with a fast-moving outbreak.

The outbreak was declared June 28. Before that, there were fewer than 10 COVID-19 cases in the community, but as of Monday

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

morning, there were 96 cases associated with the outbreak, according to Dr. Nnamdi Ndubuka, medical health officer with the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority (NITHA).

Fourteen of the 96 cases are variants of concern and Ndubuka believes they'll be confirmed to be the Delta variant first identified in India.

"It's not surprising really because of the high transmissibility rate of the variants, so this is not surprising because we know that this is how the variants behave," said Ndubuka.

Ndubuka said at one point the Hatchet Lake community didn't have any cases.

One person has been sent to hospital in this outbreak, but there haven't been any deaths.

The outbreak is being blamed on things like private gatherings and people not masking and socially distancing.

"We also do know that individuals are kind of letting their guards down too early," explained Ndubuka.

There are also low vaccination rates in the community, so fewer people are protected. First-dose uptake in those 12 and up in the area is at 38 per cent, while second doses are at 12 per cent.

Ndubuka said there are several reasons people in the area might not want to be vaccinated, from having had negative experiences with the health-care system in the past to those who are worried about side effects to those who don't normally take any vaccines whatsoever.

However, Ndubuka said there's a campaign underway to get more people to take their shots and he thinks it's starting to make some changes.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Elders and leaders in the community are getting out and encouraging vaccines, according to Ndubuka. Health-care workers are also going door to door to answer questions and encourage people to get a shot.

Ndubuka said they're also implementing small incentives like a raffle for people who get a shot.

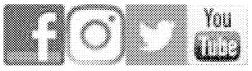
"Discussions are still ongoing in terms of how this will actually be strategized and implemented in the community," said Ndubuka.

The community is in the far northeast area of the province, but there is a large discrepancy between NITHA's case numbers and the ones posted by the Ministry of Health on Monday. The ministry's dashboard shows only 29 cases in the far northeast.

However Ndubuka said it's just a lag in case reporting because many of the cases were confirmed over the weekend. He explained the ministry relies on NITHA to report cases and it was making plans on Monday for the large number of new cases to be entered into the provincial system.

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

Visit My NewsDesk: https://www.infomedia.gc.ca/aadnc-aandc/en
for more articles and transcripts. Also a new "COVID-19 Analysis" option now allows you to find more media monitoring products on the topic.
Follow ISC on our social media accounts



Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

Richard, Jonathan (AADNC/AANDC)

From: Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC)
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 9:52 AM
To: Michelson, Leslie (AADNC/AANDC)
Cc: Holowachuk, Brock (AADNC/AANDC); Fournier, Kyle (AADNC/AANDC)
Subject: RE: Reaching out re: Catholic Church and IRSSA

That's fine.

Merci. Thank you. Meegwetch. Nakurmiik. Maarsi.

Aruna

Aruna Sadana, MBA (elle/she/her)

Director General, Communications
Indigenous Services Canada AND
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
aruna.sadana@canada.ca/ Tel: 819-994-1813/cell: 613-297-3311

Directrice générale, Communications
Services aux Autochtones Canada ET
Relations Couronne-Autochtones et Affaires du Nord Canada
aruna.sadana@canada.ca / Tél: 819-994-1813/cel:613-297-3311

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

From: Michelson, Leslie (AADNC/AANDC) <leslie.michelson@canada.ca>
Sent: August 5, 2021 9:43 AM
To: Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC) <aruna.sadana@canada.ca>
Cc: Holowachuk, Brock (AADNC/AANDC) <brock.holowachuk@canada.ca>; Fournier, Kyle (AADNC/AANDC) <kyle.fournier@canada.ca>
Subject: RE: Reaching out re: Catholic Church and IRSSA

Hi Aruna,

Thanks for the heads-up, however CIRNA nor ISC would be able to provide this reporter with the information he's looking for.

The Department does not have records of evidence used in the Provincial Court case and would not have access to the Church's ledger, which is the main purpose of the inquiry. Additionally, we would not speak on behalf of how the church responded to the court's administration of the settlement.

We have been responding with the following messaging:

- In a decision dated July 16, 2015, the IRSSA Supervising Courts confirmed that the Catholic Entities had no further financial obligations under the IRSSA. As Canada did not have a supervisory role over the churches, including the Catholic Entities, the Government is not in a position to comment further.

Document disclosed pursuant to the Access to the Information Act
Document divulgué en vertu de la Loi sous l'accès à l'information

If you would like, we can reach out to the reporter to deliver this response and reiterate the media relations process, but would have nothing further to add.

Thanks,

Leslie Michelson
Relations avec les médias | Media Relations
Services aux Autochtones Canada | Indigenous Services Canada
Relations Couronne-Autochtones et Affairs du Nord Canada | Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Téléphone | Telephone: 819-639-7304
Courriel | Email: leslie.michelson@canada.ca

From: Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC) <aruna.sadana@canada.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 9:28 AM
To: Media (SAC/ISC) <sac.media.isc@canada.ca>
Cc: Holowachuk, Brock (AADNC/AANDC) <brock.holowachuk@canada.ca>
Subject: FW: Reaching out re: Catholic Church and IRSSA

Leslie and team… over to you. I am sending to ISC media relations as it came in to Luc Dumont in the Quebec Regional office. However, will leave it to you to determine if response should come from CIRNA.

Merci. Thank you. Meegwetch. Nakurmiik. Maarsi.

Aruna

Aruna Sadana, MBA (elle/she/her)

Director General, Communications
Indigenous Services Canada AND
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
aruna.sadana@canada.ca/ Tel: 819-994-1813/cell: 613-297-3311

Directrice générale, Communications
Services aux Autochtones Canada ET
Relations Couronne-Autochtones et Affaires du Nord Canada
aruna.sadana@canada.ca / Tél: 819-994-1813/cel:613-297-3311

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

From: Wilkinson, Joanne (AADNC/AANDC) <joanne.wilkinson@canada.ca>
Sent: August 5, 2021 9:23 AM
To: Dumont, Luc (AADNC/AANDC) <luc.dumont@canada.ca>
Cc: Russell, David (AADNC/AANDC) <david.russell@canada.ca>; Russell, Susan (SAC/ISC) <susan.russell@canada.ca>; Sadana, Aruna (AADNC/AANDC) <aruna.sadana@canada.ca>
Subject: Re: Reaching out re: Catholic Church and IRSSA

Definitely need to redirect to Comms please - and Susan, can you please mention to all direct reports and RDGOs to ensure they all know that this is the process in case there are more calls of this nature to others? Merci.